★BLACK STAR★

Our rights are inalienable. Each person born on the world is heir to all the preceding ages. The whole world is ours by right of birth alone. Duties, imposed as obligations or ideals, such as patriotism, duty to the state, worship of God, submission to higher classes or authorities, respect for inherited privileges, are lies.

OCTOBER 1981 ISSUE ONE 10p

ANARCHY!

IS THIS HOW ANARCHISTS SEEM TO YOU ?

Most people see Anarchists as mad bombers bent on the total destruction of everything . Anarchy has come to mean chaos when in fact it comes from the Greek "an-archos" meaning "without rulers" and Anarchists believe in co-operation .

This paper has been produced by a small group of Anarchists in Ballymena to try and propagate Anarchist ideas among working people . There will be comment on events in the world in general and Ballymena in particular .

WHAT WE STAND FOR :

(I) The whole world now is based on inequality , coersion and violence . We believe in removing all hierarchical relationships from life and building a world based on freedom , equality and co-operation .

(2) The working class are the majority class in the world and the producers of the worlds' wealth . Thus they should receive the full fruits of their labour and control their own destiny . They must do this themselves , without relying on leaders or vanguard parties , through direct democracy in the workplace and neighbourhood .

(3) There can be no so-called "transitional" period for this . No government can represent the interests of anyone but itself and thus the working - class must seize power itself immediatoly . The results of Lenin's policies in Russia show that Marxist-Leninism is totally redundant and should be consigned to the dust-bin of history .

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(4) The working-class will not be given freedom and so they will have to take it . This will lead to violence from the ruling class who will try to hang onto their positions of power . To counter this the working-class will have to defend themselves by meeting the sword with the sword .

We as Anarchists are trying to foster these ideas among the working-class and to show them the the real power they have . We welcome any contributions from individuals , tenants' groups and community organisations of any kind . We offer to help any of them if we can by advertising their activities etc. .

LABOUR PAINS: WOMEN, MARRIAGE AND THE FAMILY.

Capitalism is based on production , competition , power and coersion , private property , yet people have a strong desire for love . In order to prevent love being spread among society and thus fragmenting the ststems' values , society has created the norm of love between two people of different sexes . This love is formalised by the state in order to ensure that it lasts " till death do us part " .

In marriage we see the capitalist system in a smaller scale . The woman is literally given away to her husband by a male guardian , usually the father . She gives up all individuality by assuming her new husband's name i.e. Mrs. John Smith . This makes her the property of Mr. John Smith , her role from then on is to serve him , keep his house and produce his children . The children can then be brought up to take their place in the system's workforce and have more children in turn . They are a commodity produced by the worker , the woman , for the boss , the man . The more marriages the better as each one requires new commodities , a house , car , furniture , t.v. etc. These can only be obtained by money , and of course the only way to get this is by working . In work the man gets ordered about by his boss , so when he returns home at night he treats his wife the same way .

Society has also created the so-called battle of the sexes to further it's own ends . Men are portrayed as the strong protectors and bread-winners of their weak female partners . This is a norm prepared for us from the moment we are born .

Boys are dressed in blue , girls in pink and most fathers (and some mothers) would like their firstborn to be a boy . Boys are expected to be boisterous and tough , keen on football and agile at climbing trees . Girls are expected to be quiet and well mannered , keen at needlework and playing little houses with their dolls . Left to their own devices both sexes are eager to join in any pastime together .

At school segregation is implemented in various subjects such as craftwork and P.E. , teachers often match boys against girls in quizzes and competitions and put pressure on the boys to win by taunting them with phrases like , " You aren't going to let the girls beat you , are you?" .

In later working both sexes have by this time been conditioned to assume their rightful or natural (sic) roles . The man goes to work in industry and the woman , if she has dared to leave her kitchen sink , gets secretarial or other suitable female work .

Many feminist groups tend to see the source of their oppression in a very short sighted way and end up by men hating or advocates of a matriarchal society . As Anarcha - Feminists , we see the picture in it's full context of oppression of both sexes and join with the anarchist movement in opposition to this sick conditioned society and advocate one of freedom in which we can cast off the sexual constraints imposed on us by the governmental system .

THIS ONE WILL KILL YA !

1914 1939 198?

Due to the increasing menace it poses , the issue of nuclear war becones more pressing than ever before . Recent political trends have seen a crop of right-wing leaders elected to powerful positions (Thatcher , Reagan) , while other world leaders see fit to increase violent and insensitive attacks in troubled areas (Begin) . Already mankind has allowed two unqualified world wars this century and countless smaller confrontations , this is not a record to be proud of yet we hang in the balance of a third major confrontation .

This would prove to be a total wipe-out of our "civilization" if not checked . The nature of the weapons increases in destructive power and killing capacity , today's standard one megaton bomb is many times more powerful than the devices used on Nagasaki and Hiroshima .

These weapons are also more specific , a prime example of this being the neutron bomb . This device is designed to kill people yet leave buildings standing , think : Do your politicians and leaders have any regards for your rights if they allow such weapons and support their useage ? They claim such armaments are necessary as a deterrent , that they are not intended for use . Surely these small weapons intended for "limited theatres of war" inply useage by their nature ?

Seemingly without realising the consequences of stockpiling these weapons , the build-up of the arms race continues . Military cheifs of NATO and the Warsaw Pact continue to distort facts and figures in order to justify their ludicrous demands for "improved" killing machines , the decision to introduce cruise missiles to G.B. is an example of this . As the number of weapons increases , the control exercized over them is reduced and the possibility of sabotage increases .

Too many people here believe that all this does not really concern them but remember this : N.I. is not safe from nuclear attack . Proposed uranium mining near Derry plus the R.A.F. base at Aldergrove and various industries such as Shorts in Belfast are all "leg itimate targets . In the case of all-out world confrontation there is also the problem of radio-active fall-out which will pollute the whole world .

However public opposition to this precarious situation remains low in N.I. . Although support for the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament has increased in Britain lately , and this organisation has held a series of meetings in N.I. including two in Ballymena , few people seem to be actively protesting against a situation and a system which could bring about their destruction .

We believe that a sane voice must be heard , attention must be drawn to the facts concerning nuclear war and people must realise the power they have to change issues which affect their lives . Althogh we are opposed to nuclear weapons and believe war to be futile and anti-humanitarian , this does not mean we are totally opposed to violence . It may be necessary to use violence to overthrow the system , which approves the useago of nuclear weapons , if we are to achieve total disarmament . It must be remembered that all governments use violence to control us , they approve of the violence of nuclear weapons which could destroy us .

RELIGION (GOD ETC.)

Ireland is probably the most religious country in the whole of Europe . Not only that but the religion found here is the most fundamental , insular and conservative . This applies to both the old-time Bible Thumping of the fundamentalist Protestants and the Nationalist Roman Catholic Church with it's emphasis on the virtues of "Irishness".

All through the history of Ireland , North and South , religion has played the role of diverting peoples' minds away from doing anything to better themselves and dividing Protestants and Catholics .

This is not only the case for Ireland but across the world as whenever the curches have any power they have always used their influence in politics to further their own ends .

The R.C. Church provides quite a few examples of this in it's long and bloody history, Protestant Churches have done the same .

There are many examples of the Catholic Church telling people how to vote in South America under threat of excommunication . Pope Pious condemned all Anarchists and Socialists in "rerum novarum" although the British Labour Party was exempted as apparently Pious did not have them in mind when he said Socialism .

The Anglican Church blessed and encouraged working people to go off and get slaughtered in their thousands in the first World War, which was based on imperialist struggles between various governments in Europe and nothing to do with Archduke Ferdinand getting topped by a lunatic Serb .

To-day in Ballymena we have the moronic D.U.P. and Free Presbyterian Church forcing their superstitious beliefs and killjoy attitudes onto us by closing the Pool on Sundays and chaining up the Park swings etc .

So what we have are various Priests and assorted nutcases telling us how to live our lives .Perhaps we should ask ourselves why they do this ?

When the Christian religion had just begun it was fairly subversive . The early Christians were opposed to the state which ruled over them and they were also communists . (This was real communism , nothing like the idiot bastard spawned in Russia by Lenin, Trotsky and their accomplices) .

Then the Christian faith came to be accepted and absorbed by the various rulers of the countries in which it was practised . The Christian church became such a powerful organisation that it was even able to exert it's will over that of the rulers of individual countries .

With the split of the Reformation the Catholic Church lost power and was thus forced to take a position of more influence as opposed to total control .

From the 19 th century down to the present day with man starting to think more for himself and rely on logical reasoning rather than faith the influence of the various churches has waned even more . They still must not be underestimated (this is probably more evident in the Ballymena area tha anywhere else) and it is important to realise that the only role they will ever play is one against the intrests of the working people The reasons for this are as follows : -

(I) The Churches (P & C) stand for the status quo and are opposed to all change as they want to hold on to their own considerable power .

(2) The Christian religion itself is for the status quo and believes that men are essentially bad , thus we can do nothing to help ourselves and God (or one of his representatives) must do it for us .

(3) If we start questioning the need for bosses we may also start questioning the need (or indeed the existence) of the supreme boss , God .

Of these reasons (I) is self-explanitory and the only thing we need ask ourselves is if it is right that any organisations should have so much power over our own lives and surely the answer to this must be no .

The second point that man is essentially bad and born in sin is wrong . He is not basically good or bad . He does show enough good points to suggest that he can make a decent life on earth . If you are involved in some kind of accident someone will come and help you even if they have never met you before . A good example of the way in which people help each other is the case of residents in Ballykeel getting together and buying a motorized wheelchair for a handicapped boy . The Government or the Church didn't get him one .

The third point about God being the ultimate boss is probably the most important one . The God of the Bible is a particularly barbaric and savage one (made in the image of the men who wrote the Bible) forever punishing people and burning them in hell (not a very loving thing to do as it's for all eternity and it's not as though he's only doing it to teach you a lesson as even if you do see the error of your ways it's not going to do you any good). Yet the Christians still say "God is love" . If he was God do you think he would allow so many contradictions (and there are more) to creep into his religion ?

Yet to all this the Christians will reply that we must not question God and have faith , but how can anyone believe in a god who demands blind faith and says that we must not use the brains which he supposedly gave us to logically examine him .

Surely the only way to make any rational judgements is to logically examine , question and discuss an issue . No rational human being can blindly accept the Christian religion or any other religion for that matter .

NO GODS OR MASTERS

FOR CENTURIES "MEN OF GOD" HAVE TRIED TO CONTROL US.

INTERNATIONAL

1.EL SALVADOR

Last May , some children looking for something to eat in a rubbish dump found murder : a pregnant woman had been slit open , the foetus removed and her lover's head inserted in it's place . This was just one incident in over 20,000 such slaughters of civilians by the State Forces in El Salvador since January of last year , and it's manner has since been repeated .

It is one of the Reagan governments' main priorities to shore up the government in El Salvador . This year they have poured 523 million dollars into the country to back these murders . And the British government has given out , at a time of stringent cutbacks at home , over 21 million , thus not only fully supporting American policy in El Salvador as ex-Minister of State for the Foreign Office Nicholas Ridley has said , but is actually helping to pay for it .

Under the United States Constitution , the "stars and stripes" must be lowered every day at sunset. Only one place on earth is excluded - the American embassy in El Salvador . Such is Reagan's comic-strip determination to win in Central America this time . In 1954 America's C.I.A. overthrew the reformist governnent of Guatemala . In 1961 the C.I. A. invaded Cuba . In 1965 U.S. Marines landed in Santa Domingo . In 1973 Kissenger "dest abalised" the Allende government in Chile . In 1979 the Samosa tyranny in Nicuragua , long sustained by American aid was overthrown in a popular uprising . The American and British governments do not want that to happen in El Salvador. But as the words on the walls in San Salvador say :

TO HOLD DOWN PEOPLE FOREVER
IS LIKE PUTTING A HAND UP TO
THE SUN .

2. POLA ND

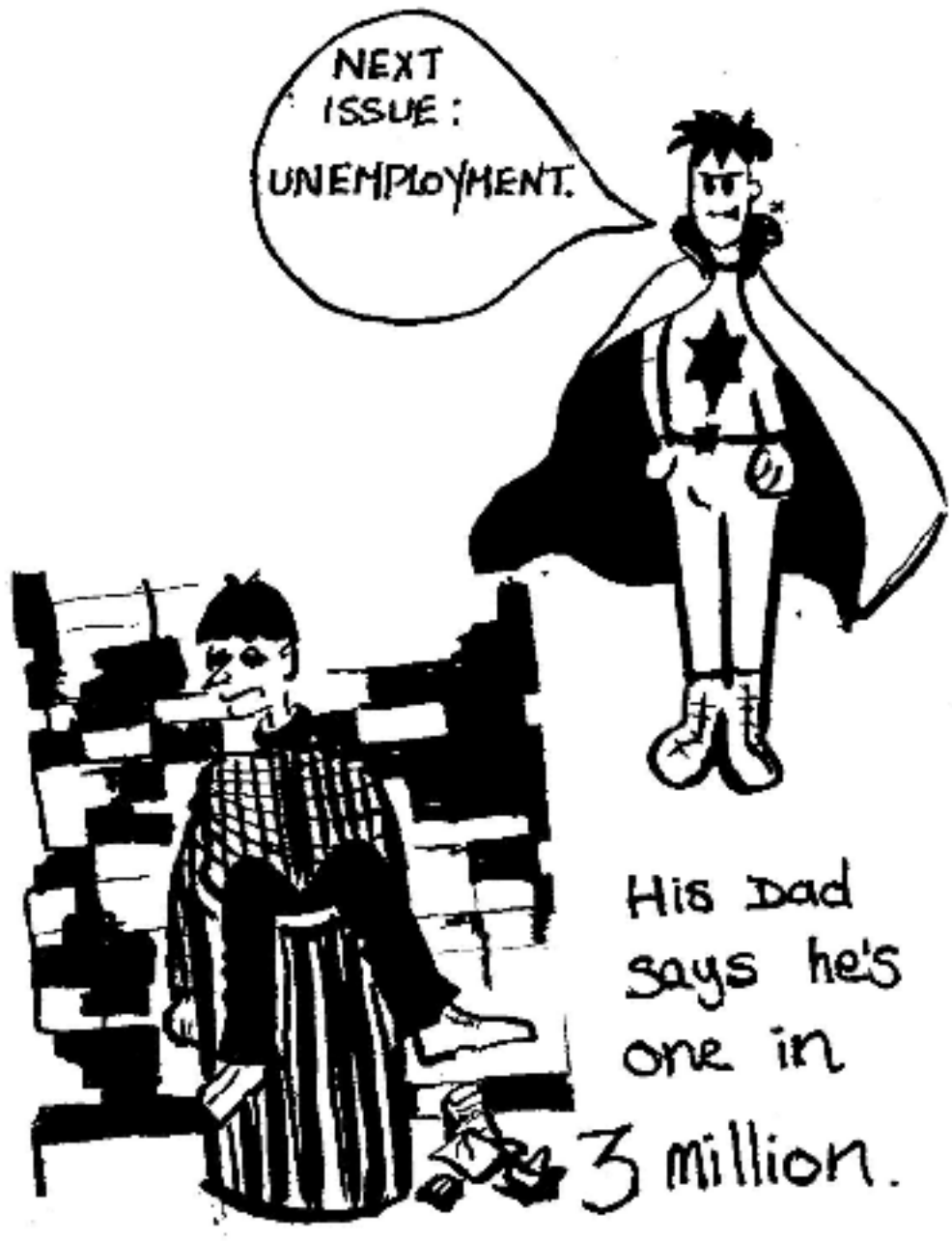
Strikes in a so-called "Workers state" show not only that Poland , and therefore Russia and the rest of the Eastern Bloc countries are not socialist countries , since they are not built around worker's power , but also that socialism cannot be built around the concept of a Workers' state . States are for bosses like Reagan's America or Hitler's Germany or Stalin's Russia . A revolution must wipe away states , and give workers control of factories and their own areas through free association .

The Free Trade Union movement throughout the state capitalist countries (for that is what Russia and her sattelites are) offers the best chance for revolutionary change here , to restore human dignity and win freedom for the working people of the Eastern Bloc . That is why it was a very bad thing for the reformist Walesa to be re-elected head of the Solidarity movement , spearheading this struggle for Free Trade Unions , since he basically accepts the Russian system of things and will be used within the union to hold back it's activities and progress . But it was consoling to see that he was only elected with just over half of the delegates votes .

It is also worth noting some instances in the history of the Solidarity movement ; how they burned down the Communist Party H.Q. while singing the "Internationale" , and and more importantly , how one of the first demands of the strikers at Gdansk was that the statue of Lenin , (the father of "transmission belts" based trade unionism , who argued that the T.U.'s only function was to increase productivity in "socialist" countries and in no circumstances worry about conditions , which were the concerns of the Party) should be pulled down and melted for scrap

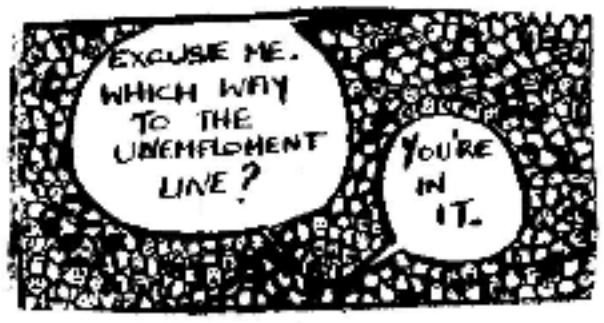
So although Brezhnev can continue talking about the withering away of the Russian state the revolution which will destroy the state throughout the East is coning ever closer . The once heroic Russian working class must rise again, taking the lead from Poland , but this time without the help of "revolutionary leaders" , relying on their own strength and power to win thr - ough to socialism and freedom .

ANARCHO-MAN SAYS



BLACK STAR CAN BE CONTACTED THROUGH BOX BS, C/o JUST BOOKS, 7 WINETAVERN STREET, BELFAST 1.

Criticisms, contributions and anyone wanting to work on the paper please write to the above.



LABOUR PAINS :

[PART 2]

"UP THE LEFT"

The goings on in the Labour Party have been much to the fore in the media lately . Every newspaper has been telling us about gains for the " left " or right on myriads of committees , sub-committees , sub sub-committees and so on right down to the finest thousand block vote of the lowliest trade union bureaucrat . Then of course there was the long and boring fight for the partys' deputy leadership .

The fifty-seven varieties of Leninism have also been busying themselves in all this by cheer-leading their hero Benn and trying to get themselves into as many positions of power as possible .

More important than these antics is the fact that due to the extreme monetarist policies of Thatcher and company many workers have been looking to the Labour Party as an alternative . It has responded to this by casting off the image of the Wilson and Callaghan governments (in which the " left wingers " served) and adopting a socialist manner .

BUT LET US NOT FORGET THAT
THE TORIES ARE ONLY
CONTINUING WITH WHAT
LABOUR STARTED .

Contrary to what some of the left may say , it was Labour that started the run down of public services , the cuts in British Leyland and the axeing of jobs at British Steel . It was Labour that brought us cuts in our social wage as a back up to their " Social Contract " with the unions to contain our struggle for decent living standards .

And it was the Labour Party and the T.U.C. that drew up and approved a set of guidelines on picketing very similar to the Employment Bill as part of the nowforgotten Concordat- a document thrown up just before the last election in an attempt to get Labour re-elected .

SO DONT BE FOOLED BY THE
SUDDEN SHOW OF MILITANCY
FROM THE LABOUR PARTY !

Tony Benn and others on the left may complain that it's not fair to ask workers to make sacrifices when the profits go to private enterprise , but under their so-called " workers control " the same sacrifices would be considered fair !

Schemes like the " Alternative Economic Strategy " represent little more than an attempt to shore up capitalism by bureaucratic restructuring of the economy . None of these schemes can overcome the problems of competitive capitalism . All of them , whether they depend on companies , nation states , or even workers co-operatives need to continually increase exploitation in order to compete on the world markets . A process which has proved to be completely unstable and unable to sustain itself without creating structural unemployment .

This brings me to the main point , the Labour Party is a party of government , not the working class . It is a set of alternative rulers of the workers - the only real difference with the Tories being that they would rule us in a different way . They even seek to increase their sphere of domination by more nationalisation , or in other words the creation of giant state corporations , none of which so far have advanced the transformation of our society one iota or given workers any greater control over the running of their own lives .

So don't be fooled by this authoritarian group of self-appointed leaders of the working class , and lets work together for the creation of a world in which people can decide their own destinies and make the decisions which affect their everyday lives , both at work and leisure

THE RADICAL TRADITION IN NORTHERN IRELAND

(1) JACK WHITE

James Robert White (always known as Jack) was born at Whitehall , Broughshane , the son of Sir George White V.C. , the "Hero of Ladysmith" .

It isn't , therefore , suprising that Jack entered the army and was awarded the D.S.O. for the part he played in the South African War .

On leaving the army he travelled the world doing various jobs before returning home . It was then that he got involved in politics , organizing a meeting with Roger Casement in Ballymoney to counter the bigoted Unionist Toryism of Sir Edward Carson , then going to Dublin where he met and was impressed by the syndicalist policies of James Connolly and offered his services to the strike committee during the Great Lock Out . It was at this time he suggested that the strikers should form a defence force . He went on to do this himself and formed and led the Irish Citizens Army .

After the first world war he became attracted to the policies of the Communist Party and especially those of John Maclean in Scotland although he never joined the C.P. .

At the time of the General Strike in England he tried once again to form an army of the strikers but the Communists were outraged by his ideas .

No Socialist group was prepared to listen and the only people to approach him were the Imperial fascists who assumed he would form an army to fight against the strikers . White angrily refused - he was a committed anti-fascist from the start .

When the Spanish Civil War broke out the I.R.A. decided to send men to fight against Franco . The command of the Irish Republican Brigade (which incidentallY consisted of both Protestants and Catholics all against the fascists) was given to White . Some I.R.A. members however , went to fight for Franco . It was from these elements that the Provisionals came to be formed .

In Spain White saw what the organised working class could do . He was exited by the collectivisation of factories and land and the volunteer militia . He learned with much suprise that these acheivements were the work of Anarchists in such organisations as the Anarchist Union , the C.N.T. (National Confederation of Labour) and the F.A.I. (the Iberian Anarchist Federation) .

White was so impressed by this that he became an anarchist himself and returned to Britain with the aim of getting arms for the Spanish Anarchists .

In England White met Matt Kavanagh , a Liverpool-Irish worker and also an anarchist . Together they worked on a study of Irish Labour and it's asperations from an anarchist perspective .

Along with White's study of the Cork "Soviet" and many other works this was destroyed by White's relatives on his death in 1940 .

All through his life White tried to organise working people to defend their own interests and to realise the power that they had if only they would use it .

He was always against sectarianism , realising quite rightly that all it does is to divide people rather than enabling them to write and struggle for their own interests - a lesson which it seems has not yet been learned .